

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
March 23, 2015

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 regular meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Alan Marcus, Homestead Drive, commented that the budget increase requested by the Board of Education is not enough to make up for the years of zero increases. Mr. Marcus described the current education facilities as embarrassing and noted the importance of class size.

Tracy Rittenhouse, Little Lane resident and member of the Goodwin PTO Executive Board, urged support for the proposed 4% increase in the education budget and asked those in the audience who agree to stand up. (Statement attached)

Robert Passmore, Middle Turnpike resident and great grandson of Edwin O. Smith, expressed his appreciation for the support his blended family has received from the schools. He stated that it is time to invest in education.

Tom Levine, Thomas Drive, thanked the Council and the Board of Education for all their work and remarked that even with a 4% increase two curriculum consultant positions are scheduled to be eliminated. Mr. Levine stated that we owe it to our children to support education.

Lyndzy Passmore, Middle Turnpike resident and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, stressed the importance of art and music to overall IQ development and increased graduation rates.

Jane Knox, Birch Road resident and Chair of the Solid Waste Advisory Board, asked the Council to support the Near Zero Waste Resolution. Ms. Knox noted this approach seeks to minimize waste, reduce consumption, maximize recycling and ensure the products are designed to be reused, repaired, recycled or composted.

Tutita Casa, Maple Road, commented that the budget is too low and that there will be an impact on the entire community if the language arts and math curriculum consultant position are eliminated. Ms. Casa stated that the cost of retaining those positions would, for the average household, be thirty dollars per year.

Sophia de Mendoza asked that the budget not be reduced so her teacher will still have time to work with her. Her mother, Veronica Barcelona, Meadowood Road, spoke in support of the budget noting the excellent teachers and small class size both of which are important.

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Doug Casa, Maple Road, thanked the Council and Board of Education for their work. Mr. Casa commented that a number of years ago people came to his home begging him not to vote for the Community Center. The referendum barely passed but now the facility is an important part of the community, showing that sometimes it is important to invest in the future. Mr. Casa stated that now is not the time to cut the curriculum consultants. David Vaughan, Warrenville Road, spoke in support of increasing the education budget and encouraged the Council to reinstate the two positions. Tim Dollars, asked the Council not to change any policy that might restrict speech, noting that passion about an issue is important. Rochelle Marcus, Homestead Drive, read a letter from Donna Koropatkin a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Literature teacher at the Mansfield Middle School. (Statement attached).

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, expressed skepticism that there have been threats made against department heads and stated that when there is a bad apple it is okay to shake the tree. Mr. Coleman commented that civility is important and referred to an October 25, 2014 letter sent to Town Manager Matt Hart. (letter and drawing attached)

Anne Perkins, Storrs Road resident and Mansfield Middle School teacher, spoke in support of the budget noting that the Town benefits when all students are invested in their schools.

Peter Millman, Dog Lane, no longer has children in the school system but doesn't see why today's children don't deserve an educational experience similar to the one his children received. Mr. Millman stated that there are many people in Town who will support the increase.

Bob Olson, Meadowbrook Lane, commented that he is happy with the education in Town and, as a teacher, he has seen the effect of layoffs.

Christina McNaboe, Derek Drive, thanked the Town Council and Board of Education for their support and stated that she would like to see the schools continue to be excellent. Ms. McNaboe supports the growth in Town schools.

Ray Haddad, Conantville Road, would like to see any increased support for the schools accomplished by reducing expenses elsewhere and suggested that employees need to learn to handle upset people. Mr. Haddad also suggested that the Town Manager should not sit at the table with Councilors. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, stated that he is not in favor of the proposed 4% increase in the education budget and that the school system is fine. Mr. Hossack questioned who is responsible for repairs to Hunting Lodge Road as a result of UConn's work on the water pipes and asked for the cost of the consultant for the Four Corners Project.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, reported that the Town is in the upper quintile of cost per student and faulted the lack of spending priorities in the school for larger class sizes. Mr. Freudmann stated that outcomes in schools are not related to cost but to socio economic factors. He also expressed disappointment in the letter from department heads.

Stacy Boothroyd, Candide Lane, moved back to Town to raise her children because of the schools. Ms. Boothroyd, a high school literature teacher, stated that class size does matter and that it is important for a teacher to have the time to connect with students. She is in support of the budget increase.

Noaris Burgos, Gurleyville Road, moved to Town for the schools after extensive research and spoke in favor of going over the proposed 4% increase for the education budget.

Art Smith, Mulberry Road, questioned the possible effect of the reclassification of an asset on the bond rating. (Statement attached and supplementary materials will be added as a communication to the April 13, 2015 packet)

Julie Hodgson, Wormwood Hill Road resident and a Mansfield teacher, stated that as a taxpayer she is concerned about property values and asked the Council to make this a vital town by investing in the schools so that residents will stay in Mansfield.

Jon Hand, Bundy Lane resident and Mansfield teacher, expressed concerns about next year when class sizes are expected to increase and there will be no place to put the additional students.

#### IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager offered the following comments:

- The Town Manager was a guest speaker at the Hartford Business Journal Municipal Collaboration Summit where he discussed the Town's shared services program.
- UConn will complete the repairs on Hunting Lodge Road as soon as weather permits.
- The cost of the contract with Milone and MacBroom, Inc. for the Four Corners Project will be provided at the next Council meeting.
- The misclassification of assets mentioned during public comment was noticed and corrected by staff and will not impact the Town's bond rating in any way.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson spoke to the General Assembly's Appropriation Committee regarding the PILOT program and the proposed changes to the state trooper program. The Mayor will also be attending the DEEP water diversion public hearing at which time she will restate the Council's support for the project.

Mr. Ryan congratulated the E.O. Smith hockey team on winning the Division 3 State Championship. Mr. Ryan also noted the passing of longtime resident Joanne V. Nolan, calling her a wonderful person who was very active in the community

Ms. Moran reported that she filled in for the Mayor at a gathering of female local elected officials where they discussed getting more women involved in municipal government.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager presented an update on projects as detailed in the Town Manager's Report.

##### 2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Mayor will present the January 2015 Town Council letter of approval at the DEEP public hearing on the water diversion project. The Town Manager and UConn staff will begin negotiations on a new sewer service agreement. Infrastructure responsibilities will be discussed as part of any agreement.

##### 3. UCONN landfill, Long-term Monitoring Report

The report is informational with no concerns or need for action recommended. Members asked that some of the tables which were not enclosed be posted on line or included in the next packet. Testing protocol for water samples will be provided.

4. Draft: Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Marcellino moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to postpone this item and that a special meeting be called to discuss the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development prior to the April 6, 2015 Planning and Zoning Commission deadline.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan who was absent from the room.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Council-Staff Relations

Members discussed the letter the Town Manager received from department heads and reviewed a number of possible actions to address the concerns and help ensure a productive working relationship. Concerns regarding minority party rights; first amendment adherence; the hostile environment sometimes evident at meetings; the rights of Councilors to request information; and respect for all were discussed.

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to request that the Town Manager research and provide the names of several potential facilitators who could conduct a session for Town Council members on maintaining order and general decorum.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted against the motion.

Ms. Wassmundt moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to request that the appropriate police department interact with department heads to ascertain whether the employees are feeling threatened and are worried about personal safety.

Councilors discussed the need for a police investigation, the definition of the term "threatened," and the treatment of staff. During the discussion Ms. Wassmundt raised a point of order noting the discussion should be limited to the subject matter of the motion under consideration, Council/staff relations. Mayor Paterson upheld the point of order.

Mr. Shapiro moved to amend the motion by removing the reference to the police and substituting the town attorney as the reviewing entity.

The amendment passed unanimously.

The motion as amended passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding possible changes to the Rules of Procedures and the best way to review any changes ensued.

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to table the rest of the discussion to a future date.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Department of Parks and Recreation Update  
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to table the Department of Parks and Recreation update to a future meeting.  
The motion passed unanimously
7. Near Zero Waste Resolution  
Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded, effective March 23, 2015, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Near Zero Waste Resolution. Said resolution shall be entered in the index of Policy Resolutions of the Mansfield Town Council. (Policy attached)  
Motion passed unanimously.
8. Amendment to Sustainability Committee Charge  
Mr. Kochenburger, Committee on Committees Chair, moved to approve the following resolution:  
Resolved, to amend the resolution establishing the Sustainability Committee, initially approved on January 12, 2009 and most recently amended July 14, 2014.  
Motion to approve passed unanimously.
9. Application to Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program  
Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective March 23, 2015, to endorse the Town's local match of \$60,000 for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program grant for the Route 275 Walkway Connector, if the Town's grant application is approved.  
Motion passed unanimously.
10. Historic Documents Preservation Grant  
Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to approve the following:  
Resolved: That Matthew W. Hart, Mansfield Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.  
Motion to approve passed unanimously.
11. Resident State Trooper Program  
The Mayor suggested an ad hoc committee of the Council be formed to begin to look at other proposals for police coverage for the Town. Under the Governor's proposed budget the Town's cost would increase by \$500,000.  
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to form an ad hoc committee to study the state trooper program and that members who served on the original Police Study Committee be asked to consider joining the committee.  
The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Paterson and Councilors Kegler and Moran agreed to serve on the committee.
12. Memorial Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee  
Mr. Kochenburger will Chair the Subcommittee and Councilors Ryan and Kegler will join him in planning the presentation.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, asked members to read the communications regarding the capital assets management comment in which the auditors have reiterated that this is not a material misstatement and has no effect on the Town's fiscal position. Mr. Ryan also reported that at the Committee meeting Mr. Ziplow of Blum and Shapiro recommended keeping the shared services model.

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees moved the recommendation of Noaris N. Burgos to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a term ending September 1, 2018.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. Community Playground Petition & Letters

14. S. Cowan (03/12/15)

15. B. Pauley/J. DeLapp (03/17/15)

16. Ristau (03/14/15)

17. E. Shoreman-Ouimet (03/19/15 1

18. E. Paterson re: Taylor Management Corporation 1

19. E. Paterson/J. Goodwin re: Proposed South Campus Development

20. M. Hart Testimony Regarding Senate Bill No. 1, An Act Concerning Tax Fairness and Economic Development

21. C. Trahan re: Capital Assets Management Comment

22. Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board re: Jobs Report

23. The Mansfield Minute – March 2015

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

No items added.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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